

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 2 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Michael et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,287,458 hereinafter "Michael") in view of Applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA). Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Michael in view of AAPA and further in view of Michael (U.S. Patent No. 5,140,679 hereinafter "Michael '679"). Claims 3 and 13 are canceled.

Claim 1 is amended to dispense with the limitation "related to transmission characteristics of said serial transmission line". This limitation was added to claim 1 in the amendment of February 13, 2004, filed in response to the Office Action of November 13, 2003. In view of this amendment, reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-6 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. 112 is respectfully requested. Claims 3 and 13 are canceled.

In the Office Action dated November 13, 2003, the Examiner objected to claims 3 and 4, indicating that claims 3-4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims (page 7 of the Office Action). The Examiner did not so indicate in the pending Office Action. However, Applicants believe that this allowability stands. Accordingly, Applicants believe that claim 1, which includes the limitation of canceled claim 3, is allowable per Examiner's statement on page 7 of the Office Action of November 13, 2003. Claims 2, 4-6 and 11-12 are dependent from claim 1 and are thus allowable for at least the same reason as is claim 1. Claims 7-10 are allowed.

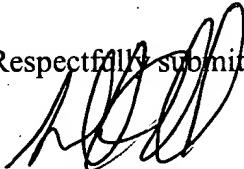
Applicants believe that Claims 1-2, and 4-12 now pending in this Application are thus in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested. If the

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Amdt. dated August 13, 2004
Amendment Under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 2128

PATENT

Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


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